

Appln. No. 10/645,683
Amendment dated March 15, 2006
Reply to Office Action mailed January 10, 2006

REMARKS

Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Entry of the above amendments is courteously requested in order to place all claims in this application in allowable condition and/or to place the non-allowed claims in better condition for consideration on appeal.

Claims 1, 2, 5 through 10, and 12 through 19 remain in this application. Claims 3, 4, 11, 20, and 21 have been cancelled. No claims have been withdrawn or added.

The Examiner's rejections will be considered in the order of their occurrence in the Office Action.

Paragraph 1 of the Office Action

Claims 1, 2, 4, 6 through 8, and 21 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Vier et al.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the requirements of claim 3, which was indicated as being allowable in the Office Action, and therefore claim 1, as well as claims 2, 4, 6, 7, and 8 which depend from claim 1, are submitted to be in condition for allowance.

Withdrawal of the §102(b) rejection of claims 1, 2, 6 through 8, and 21 is therefore respectfully requested.

Paragraph 2 of the Office Action

Claims 9 through 10 and 12 through 19 have been allowed.

Paragraph 3 of the Office Action

Paragraph 3 of the Office Action states that claim 3 and 5 would be allowable if written into independent form with the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

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The above amendment incorporates the limitations of claims 1 and 4 into the recitation of claim 5, and therefore claim 5 is believed to be in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing amendments and remarks, early reconsideration and allowance of this application are most courteously solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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